

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-11. (canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A system to present a virtual representation of at least one product for purchase by a user of the system, the system including:

a processor unit;

memory, coupled to said processor unit, storing an approximation of at least one characteristic of each said product, said characteristic selected from a group consisting of (a) an image of said product, (b) a sound of said product, (c) a texture of said product, (d) a mass of said product, (e) a smell of said product, (f) a temperature of said product, and (g) vibrations of said product;

for each said characteristic in said group, a visual simulation sub-system, functionally coupled to said memory and defining a three-dimensional display area, that simulates said characteristic image for said user such that a three-dimensional visual representation of said product appears in said display space;

a monitor, functionally coupled to said processor unit, to display for viewing by said user a selection including each said product;

—— means, coupled to said processor unit, for enabling said user to cause said system to provide said user with a simulation of at least one said characteristic for a product of interest to said user; and

a sales unit, coupled to said processor unit, enabling said user to purchase said product.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein said memory is network-coupled to said system.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein said memory is coupled to said system via an Internet link.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein simulation of at least two one further characteristics for said product chosen from the group of characteristics consisting of : sound, texture, mass, smell, temperature, and vibration, are provided said user.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 12, wherein simulation of at least three two further characteristics for said product are provided said user.

17. (Currently Amended) A method to facilitate user purchase of a product, the method comprising the following steps:

(a) approximating ~~at least one characteristic of each said product, said characteristic selected from a group consisting of (i) an image of said product, (ii) a sound of said product, (iii) a texture of said product, (iv) a mass of said product, (v) a smell of said product, (vi) a temperature of said product, and (vii) vibrations of said product;~~

(b) ~~for each said characteristic in said group, simulating said product by generating a three-dimensional visual representation of said product, using said image, in a display space~~ characteristic for said user;

(c) displaying for viewing by said user a selection including each said product;

(d) enabling said user to select a product of interest;

~~(e) providing said user with a simulation of at least one said characteristic for said product of interest; and~~

(fe) enabling said user to purchase said product of interest.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said method is carried out by a computer-based system.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein step (a) includes storing in a computer-compatible memory each said approximation of ~~at least one characteristic of each said product.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein step (b) includes providing, for each said characteristic in said group, a simulation-visual sub-system defining said display space that simulates said characteristic-product for said user.

21. (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein said memory further stores an approximation of a sound of said product, said system further comprising a simulation subsystem functionally coupled to said memory that simulates said sound for said user.

22. (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein said memory further stores an approximation of a texture of said product, said system further comprising a simulation subsystem functionally coupled to said memory that simulates said texture for said user.

23. (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein said memory further stores an approximation of a smell of said product, said system further comprising a simulation subsystem functionally coupled to said memory that simulates said smell for said user.

24. (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein said memory further stores an approximation of a mass of said product, said system further comprising a simulation subsystem functionally coupled to said memory that simulates said mass for said user.

25. (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein said memory further stores an approximation of a temperature of said product, said system further comprising a simulation subsystem functionally coupled to said memory that simulates said temperature for said user.

26. (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein said memory further stores an approximation of a vibration of said product, said system further comprising a simulation subsystem functionally coupled to said memory that simulates said vibration for said user.

27. (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein said visual subsystem comprises a dome defining said three-dimensional display area.

B²
28. (New) A method according to claim 17, further comprising approximating a sound of said product, and wherein the act of simulating said product further includes simulating the sound of said product for the user.

29. (New) A method according to claim 17, further comprising approximating a texture of said product, and wherein the act of simulating said product further includes simulating the texture of said product for the user.


30. (New) A method according to claim 17, further comprising approximating a mass of said product, and wherein the act of simulating said product further includes simulating the mass of said product.

31. (New) A method according to claim 17, further comprising approximating a smell of said product, and wherein the act of simulating said product further includes simulating the smell of said product for the user.

32. (New) A method according to claim 17, further comprising approximating a temperature of said product, and wherein the act of simulating said product further includes simulating the temperature of said product for the user.

Serial No.: 09/615,363
Filing Date: 13 JULY 2000

33. (New) A method according to claim 17, further comprising approximating a vibration of said product, and wherein the act of simulating said product further includes simulating the vibration of said product for said user.

 34. (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein said product is a physical, three-dimensional object.

35. (New) A method according to claim 17, wherein said product is a physical, three-dimensional object.
